AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 (Currently amended). An apparatus comprising

a bite block including a tubular member sized and configured for passage into an oral cavity, and

first and second gripping jaws carried by the bite block outside of the oral cavity, the jaws capable of selectively moving between an open spaced-apart position and a closed-adjacently spaced position.

2 (Original). An apparatus as in claim 1

wherein the jaws posses a resilient plastic memory.

3 (Original). An apparatus as in claim 2

wherein the resilient memory plastic memory biases the jaws toward the closed position.

4 (Withdrawn). An apparatus as in claim 2

wherein the resilient plastic memory biases the jaws toward the open position.

5 (Original). An apparatus as in claim 1

wherein the jaws are positioned, in the closed position, to hold an external instrument.

6 (Original). An apparatus as in claim 1

wherein the jaws are positioned, in the open position, to permit removal, insertion, or alteration of the position of an external instrument.

7 (Withdrawn). An apparatus as in claim 1

wherein the jaws are selectively removable from the bite block.

8 (Original). An apparatus as in claim 1

wherein the jaws are integral with the bite block.

9 (Currently amended). An apparatus comprising

a bite block including a tubular member sized and configured for passage into an oral cavity,

first and second gripping jaws carried by the bite block outside of the oral cavity, and

an actuator mechanism capable of selectively moving the jaws between an open spaced-apart position and a closed adjacently-spaced position.

10 (Original). An apparatus as in claim 9

wherein the actuator mechanism comprises a cam surface.

11 (Withdrawn). An apparatus as in claim 9

wherein the actuator mechanism comprises a cam mechanism.

12 (Withdrawn). An apparatus as in claim 9

wherein the actuator mechanism comprises a squeeze clamp.

13 (Original). An apparatus as in claim 9

wherein at least one of the jaws and the actuator mechanism possess a resilient plastic memory.

14 (Original). An apparatus as in claim 13

wherein the resilient plastic memory biases the jaws toward the closed position.

15 (Withdrawn). An apparatus as in claim 13

wherein the resilient plastic memory biases the jaws toward the open position.

16 (Original). An apparatus as in claim 9

wherein the jaws are positioned, in the closed position, to hold an external instrument.

17 (Original). An apparatus as in claim 9

wherein the jaws are positioned, in the open position, to permit removal, insertion, or alteration of the position of an external instrument.

18 (Withdrawn). An apparatus as in claim 9

wherein at least one of the jaws and the actuator mechanism are selectively removable from the bite block.

19 (Original). An apparatus as in claim 9

wherein the at least one of the jaws and the actuator mechanism are integral with the bite block.

20-46 (Canceled).